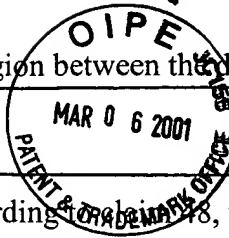


ion producing electrical discharges in the air region between the dielectric member and the edge surface of said second electrode.



71. (Amended) The method according to claim 48, wherein multiple deposits [may be] are made using multiple deposition regions supplied from a single aerosol source by multiplexing the application of the alternating deposition field between the deposition regions.

### REMARKS

Minor clerical errors have been corrected in the specification. No new matter has been entered by any of the foregoing amendments.

While it is believed the original claims accurately define over the art cited by the Examiner, in order to expedite prosecution, independent claims 1 and 48 have been amended to add clarifying language. Claims 55, 59 and 71 have been amended to employ more idiomatic English and/or correct minor clerical errors.

The finality of the restriction requirement is noted. Applicants confirm their previous election, and request that the non-elected claims be maintained in this application for possible rejoinder and/or for filing of one or more divisional applications.

Turning to the art rejections, as the Examiner is no doubt aware, for a reference to anticipate a claim, each and every element of the claimed combination must be found within that reference. It is submitted that there are several claim elements not found in either reference. The '871 patent teaches electrostatic coating of powered materials onto a grounded workpiece. There is no disclosure or suggestion contained within the four corners of the '871 patent of forming an aerosol of the particles in a first region, and transporting the resulting aerosol to a second region where a charge is applied as required by Applicants' claims. Moreover, there is no disclosure or suggestion contained within the four corners of the '871 patent of a first electrode positioned in a

second region and a second electrode positioned underlying and in contact with the (target) dielectric substrate as required by Applicants' claims. Thus, Applicants' claims cannot be said to be anticipated by or for that matter obvious from the '871 Patent.

Similar comments apply to EP'662. In fact, EP'662 is even more remote. EP'662 is concerned with electric deposition of paint particles onto an object. According to EP'662, air ions are used to neutralize static charges on objects being coated. In EP'662 ions comprising positive air ions and negative air ions are continuously supplied to both the spray particles in an atmosphere and the surface of the object to be coated during the spraying process. There is no teaching or suggestion of alternating charge as required by Applicants' claims. Accordingly, Applicants' claims cannot be said to be anticipated by or obvious from EP'662.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



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clm

# CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on February 27, 2001 at Manchester, New Hampshire.

By: Kristine Stevens